

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting February 18, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2004, in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Drew Bedwell, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, DeVere Mautino, Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: Joshua J. Susman

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Arnett convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: January 2004

Referring to Fund 327, Work Element 2.2.2-Crestview PR/ED consulting, Commissioner Krage questioned how the allocation of \$318,408 would flow to the consultant. Mr. Landon explained that the two developers for this project will submit \$150,000 each to be deposited into Fund 327, and when a payment is made to the consultant, a deposit will be made by one or both of the developers to maintain the balance of \$300,000. A team consisting of Mr. Landon, staff from the City of Grass Valley, Nevada County, and Caltrans will review the consultant's work products.

2. Correspondence:

A. Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation - Dan Landon has been nominated to serve on the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Advisory Committee.

Chairman Arnett congratulated Mr. Landon for his appointment to the TDA committee. Mr. Landon responded that he considered himself a "watch dog", and at the first meeting he attended, stated he did not want to see any diminution of local control of the TDA funds.

F. Letters/resolution in response to US EPA's proposal to modify some of the non-attainment boundary areas under the 8-hour ozone standards.

Mr. Landon presented an overview of what had occurred as a result of the letters being sent and of his phone conversations with government officials, members of Congress, and staff at EPA headquarters and Region IX. Commissioner Krage commended Mr. Landon for his efforts to get through to the decision makers. Mr. Landon stated he would continue to keep the pressure on until the issue was resolved.

3. Executive Director's Report:

➤ 3.1 Status Report on Idaho-Maryland Road/East Main Street Intersection Project

Executive Director Landon stated that NCTC staff and consultants were meeting this afternoon with Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Lonergan and her staff to discuss the concept of diverting traffic from the Idaho-Maryland Road onramp to the frontage road system. Mr. Landon provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission, which he had also presented to the Grass Valley City Council regarding the planning studies being prepared for improvement at this intersection. A brief question and answer discussion followed.

4A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager.

➤ Dorsey Drive Project

Mr. Brannon reviewed Caltrans assumptions that were made regarding the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle funding plan proposed for the Dorsey Drive interchange project. He noted that due to the state's hit on the funds held in the State Highway Account, the SB 45 components of the project had to be spread out to match the availability of funds programmed over the five-year STIP cycle. Mr. Brannon stated it was Caltrans goal to find a project alternative that could be constructed with the funds available, although there was a risk there would be no practicable solution and more funding would be required. Possible alternatives include some combination of roundabouts and postponing construction of the southbound offramp, which would lower construction and right-of-way costs. Another alternative would be to seek additional funds in the 2006 STIP cycle for the 2010 or 2011 fiscal years. Mr. Brannon stated that Caltrans was developing a proposal to program this project in accordance with the funds available.

Chairman Arnett stated he was unsure if it was right to plan to build a partial interchange, by eliminating the southbound offramp, because it would be more expensive to complete in the future. Mr. Brannon responded it was better to secure the dollars now for partial construction and avoid losing the project's place in the state program. He explained that in the 2006 STIP, there was a possibility of adding dollars to the project and adjusting the scope of work.

Commissioner Bedwell asked if it were possible that either Caltrans or local governments could purchase properties now to avoid escalating property cost and still build only a portion of the interchange. Mr. Brannon responded that was an option to pursue. Also he stated he would check to see if there would be any impact on the interchanges further down the freeway if the southbound offramp was not constructed.

Commissioner Mautino stated she recalled that the City of Grass Valley had been informed there was funding available for construction of the interchange through 2008. Mr. Landon responded that the state, in restructuring the budget, took money from the State Highway Account to fill back the General Fund. Basically the state told the transportation community that the money would be provided, but that the cash flow would be spread out over two additional years. He explained that Mr. Brannon had restructured the project phasing so that the expenditures would match the cash flow that was provided.

➤ SR 49 Widening Project

Mr. Brannon reviewed Caltrans assumptions that were made regarding the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle funding plan proposed for the SR 49 widening project. He stated that the funds for this project were all prior allocations and did not need to be respread. It is Caltrans goal to go to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) with a fully funded project through construction. Mr. Brannon explained that after completing project development and environmental documentation for the entire corridor, there would be approximately \$18,165,000 available to fund right-of-way and construction of one segment of the corridor. He stated he was confident that Caltrans could deliver and construct a project in the La Barr Meadows Road area. Caltrans proposes to change the programming from \$18,165,000 obligated now to \$4,750,000, and program \$13,410,000 in future years. Mr. Brannon stated that the CTC would see this as a positive step in maintaining the cash flow in the State Highway Account. He stated that in the absence of State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding and the inability to use SHOPP safety funding, this was the only known way to provide the improvements needed to resolve the La Barr Meadows Road intersection problem.

Commissioner Krage stated it was important to promote the project to the community as a project that will improve safety and told Mr. Brannon to be prepared for public opposition to widening Highway 49 to four lanes and acquiring right-of-way.

Tom Brannon concluded his presentation stating that Mr. Landon will bring back to the Commission for their review and approval these two projects in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) bid to the state.

➤ Truckee Signals and Roundabouts

Mr. Brannon stated that the Town of Truckee would like the roundabout project advertised by early April so construction could start in the summer. Caltrans was doing everything it could to assist in this goal.

➤ Roundabout at Gold Flat Road

Mr. Brannon stated there was a public meeting planned for February 19th between 5 and 7:30 p.m. to show the proposed design for the roundabout and to answer questions.

➤ SR 89/Mousehole Project

In response to Commissioner Krage's question as to the status of this project, Mr. Landon stated that the Town of Truckee became the lead agency for this project which was on a waiting list for funds to be allocated by the CTC.

CONSENT ITEM:

5. NCTC Minutes: January 21, 2004. *Approved.*

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Revised Findings of Apportionment for 2003/04 and Preliminary Findings for 2004/05.

Executive Director Landon stated that based on state statute, each year at this time the Nevada County Auditor-Controller provides the Commission with an estimate of funds for the next fiscal year and revised findings for the remainder of the current year. The revised findings did not show much increase and the preliminary findings were pretty much the same as the previous year.

Commissioner Krage made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-04 approving the revised findings of apportionment and Resolution 04-05 approving the preliminary findings for the 2004/05 FY. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Allocation Request from Nevada County:

Executive Director Landon stated Nevada County was requesting an allocation of \$917,338 of Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds for the Dog Bar Road Reconstruction Project (Phase II).

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-06. Commissioner Mautino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Allocation Request from Nevada County for STA Funds:

Executive Director Landon stated that Nevada County was requesting an allocation of \$130,753.61 in State Transit Assistance Funds for the operation of the Gold Country Stage for FY 2003/04.

Commissioner Krage made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-07. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Sutherland stated that at a conference she had attended, Assemblyman Keene reassured the public that the State's Budget Committee was considering transportation funding a high priority in the next budget cycle.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Arnett adjourned the meeting in memory of Ernie Bierwagen at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Kerry Arnett, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission